

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/066,636	RAJAGOPALAN, MURALI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David Buttner	1712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amdt 3/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-10 and 22-25.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephanie Scruggs on 3/30/04.

Replace the claims with the attached pages

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The allowed claims require a thermoset outer cover unlike Tanaka. Claim 11's proposed limitation is a new issue and would not have excluded Tanaka's cover of thermoplastic nonionomer blended with ionomer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Buttner whose telephone number is 571-272-1084. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 10 to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DAVID J. BUTTNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DB

3/31/04

David Buttner

1. (Previously Amended) A golf ball comprising:
 - a core;
 - a cover comprising a non-ionomeric polymer material comprising a thermoset polymer; and
 - an intermediate layer disposed between the core and the cover, wherein the intermediate layer comprises a polymer composition comprising at least one ionomer and at least one polyamide polymer.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Amended) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the thermoset polymer comprises a functionalized thermoset polymer, a thermoset copolymer, a functionalized thermoset copolymer, or mixtures thereof.
4. (Original) The golf ball of claim 3, wherein the thermoset polymer comprises polyurethane.
5. (Original) The golf ball of claim 3, wherein the thermoset polymer comprises polyurea.
6. (Previously Amended) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the thermoset polymer comprises transpolyisoprene.
7. (Original) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the ionomer comprises homopolymers or copolymers of olefin, polyester, copoly(ether-ester), copoly(ester-ester), polyamide, polyimide, polyether, polyurethane, polyacrylate, polystyrene, hydrogenated styrene butadiene styrene, polycarbonate, or mixtures thereof.

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8. (Previously Amended) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the ionomer comprises a copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are at least partially neutralized with at least one metal ion.
9. (Original) The golf ball claim 8, wherein the metal ion comprises zinc, sodium, magnesium, manganese, calcium, lithium, or potassium.
10. (Original) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyamide polymer is selected from the group consisting of nylon 4, nylon 6, nylon 7, nylon 11, nylon 12, nylon 13, nylon 4,6, nylon 6,6, nylon 6,9, nylon 6,10, nylon 6,12, nylon 12,12, nylon 13,13, and mixtures thereof.
11. (Canceled) A golf ball comprising:
 - a core;
 - a cover ~~comprising~~ formed from a non-ionomeric thermoplastic polymer material; and
 - an intermediate layer disposed between the core and the cover, wherein the intermediate layer comprises a polymer composition comprising about 10 percent to about 80 percent of at least one ionomer and about 90 percent to about 20 percent of at least one polyamide polymer, with the proviso that the at least one polyamide polymer is not a block polyamide copolymer comprising main-chain polyether blocks.
12. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 11, wherein the non-ionomeric thermoplastic polymer material comprises a functionalized polymer, a copolymer or functionalized copolymer, or mixtures thereof.
13. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 11, wherein the non-ionomeric thermoplastic polymer material is selected from the group consisting of a polyamide, a polycarbonate,

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a poly(phenylene oxide), imidized amino group containing polymers, high impact polystyrene, polysulfone, poly(phenylene sulfide), reinforced engineering plastics, polytetrafluoroethylene, nonionic olefinic homopolymers, and nonionic olefinic copolymers.

14. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 11, wherein the ionomer comprises a copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are at least partially neutralized with at least one metal ion.

15. (Canceled) The golf ball claim 14, wherein the metal ion comprises zinc, sodium, magnesium, manganese, calcium, lithium, or potassium.

16 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A golf ball comprising:

a core;

a cover comprising a non-ionomeric polymer material comprising at least one thermoset polymer; and

an intermediate layer disposed between the core and the cover, wherein the intermediate layer comprises a polymer composition comprising about 10 percent to about 80 percent of at least one ionomer and about 90 percent to about 20 percent of at least one polyamide polymer, with the proviso that the at least one polyamide polymer is not a block polyamide copolymer comprising main-chain polyether blocks.

23. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the ionomer is present in an amount of about 15 percent to about 75 percent by weight of the polymer composition, and wherein the polyamide polymer is present in an amount of about 85 percent to about 25 percent by weight of the polymer composition.

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24. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the at least one polyamide polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamide homopolymers, polyamide copolymers, block polyamide copolymers, and mixtures thereof.
 25. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the at least one ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and about 5 percent to about 30 percent acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.
 26. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the non-ionomeric polymer material comprises at least one thermoset polymer.
 27. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the non-ionomeric polymer material comprises at least one thermoplastic polymer.
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